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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 223809

62
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APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
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O 092340Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP CH US

SUBJECT: CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ON CHAIRMAN MAO'S DEATH

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO HUA KUO-FENG AND MADAME MAO, AND FROM THE SECRETARY TO CHIAO KUAN-HUA. SIGNED ORIGINALS WILL BE DELIVERED TO PRCLO IN WASHINGTON.

BEGIN TEXT:

HIS EXCELLENCY
HUA KUO-FENG
PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL
PEKING

DEAR MR. PREMIER:

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PAGE 02 STATE 223809

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES, AND THOSE OF THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE PASSING OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG.

FEW MEN IN ANY ERA ACHIEVE HISTORIC GREATNESS. CHAIRMAN MAO WAS ONE OF THESE MEN. HIS LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN A DECISIVE ELEMENT IN THE SHAPING OF THE CHINESE NATION FOR SEVERAL DECADES, AND HIS WORKS HAVE LEFT A DEEP IMPRINT UPON OUR CIVILIZATION. HE WAS TRULY A MAJOR FIGURE OF OUR TIMES.

I WAS PRIVILEGED TO MEET CHAIRMAN MAO DURING MY VISIT TO PEKING IN DECEMBER 1975. OUR DISCUSSION FURTHERED THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-CHINA RELATIONS ALONG THE LINES THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAD EARLIER ENVISAGED. LET ME AFFIRM NOW, AS I DID THEN, THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO COMPLETE THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. THIS WOULD BE A FITTING TRIBUTE TO HIS VISION, AND OF BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD
END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT:

MADAME MAO TSE-TUNG
PEKING
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DEAR MADAME MAO:

MRS. FORD JOINS ME IN EXTENDING TO YOU OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG.

CHAIRMAN MAO HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIS ERA. DURING MY VISIT TO PEKING IN DECEMBER 1975, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HOLD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. OUR TALKS CONFIRMED THAT WE SHARED A COMMON BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE
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OF STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. CHAIRMAN MAO WILL BE REMEMBERED IN THIS COUNTRY FOR HIS LEADING ROLE IN RESTORING THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND CHINESE PEOPLES.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES.

SINCERELY,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

GERALD R. FORD
END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT:

HIS EXCELLENCY
CH'IAO KUAN-HUA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PEKING

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG.

CHAIRMAN MAO WAS A TOWERING FIGURE ON THE WORLD SCENE. DURING THE MEETINGS WHICH I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WITH HIM, I WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY HIS WIDE-RANGING INTELLECT AND PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO HIS COUNTRY. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, CHINA JOINED THE UNITED STATES IN SHAPING A NEW AND DURABLE RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ON THIS COURSE, WHICH WILL STAND AS A MONUMENT TO HIS FORESIGHT.

SINCERELY,

HENRY A KISSINGER
END TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE DO NOT PLAN TO RELEASE TEXTS BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION IF PRC GOVERNMENT WISHES TO DO SO.
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KISSINGER

NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: PEKING
Type: TE
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